



GED-SECTION-4^{Q&As}

Section Four Language Arts - Reading

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**QUESTION 1**

How Are Robots Different from Humans?

[Helena is talking to Domain, the general manager of Rossums Universal Robots factory.]

DOMAIN: Well, any one whos looked into anatomy will have seen at once that man is too complicated, and that a good engineer could make him more simply. So young Rossum began to overhaul anatomy and tried to see what could be left

out or simplified. In short but this isnt boring you, Miss Glory?

HELENA: No; on the contrary, its awfully interesting.

DOMAIN: So young Rossum said to himself: A man is something that, for instance, feels happy, plays the fiddle, likes going for walks, and, in fact, wants to do a whole lot of things that are really unnecessary.

HELENA: Oh!

DOMAIN: Wait a bit. That are unnecessary when hes wanted, let us say, to weave or to count. Do you play the fiddle?

HELENA: No.

DOMAIN: Thats a pity. But a working machine must not want to play the fiddle, must not feel happy, must not do a whole lot of other things. A petrol motor must not have tassels or ornaments, Miss Glory. And to manufacture artificial workers

is the same thing as to manufacture motors. The process must be of the simplest, and the product of the best from a practical point of view. What sort of worker do you think is the best from a practical point of view?

HELENA: The best? Perhaps the one who is most honest and hard-working.

DOMAIN: No, the cheapest. The one whose needs are the smallest. Young Rossum invented a worker with the minimum amount of requirements. He had to simplify him. He rejected everything that did not contribute directly to the progress of

work. In this way he rejected everything that made man more expensive. In fact, he rejected man and made the Robot. My dear Miss Glory, the Robots are not people. Mechanically they are more perfect than we are, they have an enormously

developed intelligence, but they have no soul. Have you ever seen what a Robot looks like inside? HELENA: Good gracious, no!

DOMAIN: Very neat, very simple. Really a beautiful piece of work. Not much in it, but everything in flawless order. The product of an engineer is technically at a higher pitch of perfection than a product of nature.

HELENA: Man is supposed to be the product of nature.

DOMAIN: So much the worse.

Karel C apek,

from R.U.R. (1923, translated by P. Selver)

According to the passage, why are robots better workers than humans?



- A. Robots have a very simple anatomy.
- B. Robots are more intelligent.
- C. Robots are more honest and hard-working.
- D. Robots do not have a soul.
- E. Robots want things that are unnecessary.

Correct Answer: D

Domain states that the best workers are those who are "the cheapest" and "whose needs are the smallest" (lines 40

QUESTION 2

What Has Mrs. Mallard Realized?

[Mrs. Mallard has locked herself in a room and is crying.]

She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of

reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the

color that filled the air.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.

When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: "free, free, free!" The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed

keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body. She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the

suggestion as trivial.

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years

to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome. There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers



in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of

illumination.

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Kate Chopin, from "The Story of an Hour" (1894)

From what you learn in the passage, what relationship do you think Mrs. Mallard had with her husband?

A.

She loved him, but he did not love her.

B.

He loved her, but she did not love him.

C.

They loved each other and were kind to each other.

D.

They fought constantly.

E.

They were estranged from each other.

Correct Answer: C

In line 39, we learn that Mr. Mallard "had never looked save with love" upon Mrs. Mallard, and that she "would weep again when she saw [his] kind, tender hands folded in death." This shows that they had a loving relationship and eliminates all of the other choices.

QUESTION 3

What Is the New Dress Code Policy?

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Employees FROM: Helen Suskind, Director,

Human Resources Department

DATE: March 22, 2005 RE: Implementation of New Dress Code

A new dress code for all employees will take effect on September 1. All employees will be required to wear professional business attire while in the office. In this context, professional business attire excludes T-shirts, sleeveless shirts, shorts,

jeans, athletic attire, miniskirts, sandals, flip-flops, and sneakers. The attached sheet provides a complete list of attire



that is inappropriate for the office. Please be sure to review this list carefully.

Violations of the new dress code will be handled as follows:

If you have any questions about the parameters of the dress code, please contact Martin Lamb in Human Resources immediately to schedule an appointment.

It is important that all employees understand the seriousness of this policy. Management based its decision to implement this code upon evidence that the lack of a dress code leads to a decrease in productivity. Our new dress code will help

maintain the reputation and integrity of our company by keeping us aware of the need for professionalism. Thank you for your cooperation.

It is possible to conclude from this memorandum that

- A. the company does not currently have a dress code.
- B. the dress code has been a controversial issue at the company.
- C. the company used to have a formal dress code and it is simply being reinstated.
- D. the employees will be unhappy about the policy.
- E. there has been a recent change in management.

Correct Answer: A

The memo begins by stating that a "new" dress code is going into effect, suggesting that this is the first policy of its kind for employees. More importantly, if there were an existing dress code, the memorandum would make comparisons between the current and new dress codes throughout the memo (e.g., "Under the new policy, employees will no longer be permitted to wear jeans to the office"). If the company were reinstating a prior policy (choice c), the memorandum would likely say so, especially for the benefit of employees who may remember the former code. It may be true that the dress code has been controversial (choice b), that employees will be unhappy with the code (choice d), or that there has been a recent change in management (choice e), but there is no evidence of any of these choices in the memorandum.

QUESTION 4

How Does the Speaker Feel about War?

War Is Kind Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind. Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky And the affrighted steed ran on alone, Do not weep. War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment Little souls who thirst for fight, These men were born to drill and die The unexplained glory flies above them Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom

A field where a thousand corpses lie. Do not weep, babe, for war is kind. Because your father tumbled in the yellow trenches, Raged at his breast, gulped and died, Do not weep. War is kind. Swift, blazing flag of the regiment Eagle with crest

of red and gold, These men were born to drill and die Point for them the virtue of slaughter Make plain to them the excellence of killing And a field where a thousand corpses lie.

Mother whose heart hung humble as a button On the bright splendid shroud of your son, Do not weep. War is kind.



Stephen Crane, 1899

The speaker calls the "kingdom" of the "battlegod" (lines 13

Correct Answer: E

If the kingdom of a god is only corpses, he must be a powerful god (he can create such death and destruction), but he is also a terrible god who lacks love and compassion. In addition, if his kingdom is only corpses, then he has no living worshippers to follow him, so his power is paradoxical and, essentially, useless.

These lines do show that the battle-god is mighty (choice a), but the theme of the poem is the terrible nature of war, so e is a better choice. There are indeed many casualties in a war (choice b) and many deaths in a battle (choice c), but these ideas do not convey an attitude toward war, and repetition is usually used to help convey theme. The poem does not try to make us afraid of war; rather, it wants us to see the terrible nature of war, so choice d is incorrect.

QUESTION 5

What Did the Speaker Learn from Alfonso?

Alfonso I am not the first poet born to my family. We have painters and singers, actors and carpenters.

I inherited my trade from my zio, Alfonso. Zio maybe was the tallest man in the village, he certainly was the wisest. He lost his voice to cigarettes before I was born, but still he roared with his hands, his eyes, with his brow, and his deafening

smile.

He worked the sea with my nonno fishing in silence among the grottoes so my father could learn to write and read and not speak like the guaglione, filled with curses and empty pockets.

He would watch me write with wonder, I could hear him on the couch, he looked at the lines over my shoulder, tried to teach himself to read late in the soft Adriatic darkness. Wine-stained pages gave him away.

But I learned to write from Zio He didnt need words, still he taught me the language of silence, the way the sun can describe a shadow, a gesture can paint a moment, a scent could fill an entire village with words and color and sound, a perfect little grape tomato can be the most beautiful thing in the world, seen through the right eyes.

Marco A. Annunziata (2002)

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Which of the following best sums up what the speaker has learned from Alfonso?

- A. how to appreciate the beauty of the world
- B. how to listen to others
- C. how to appreciate his family
- D. how to understand himself



E. how to read poetry

Correct Answer: A

Lines 3341 show that the speaker has learned how to appreciate, and express, the beauty of the world. Alfonso does not talk, so he does not teach the speaker how to listen (choice b). There is no evidence that the speaker learns how to appreciate his family or understand himself (choices c and d). Lines 2223 reveal that Alfonso couldnt read, so choice e is incorrect.

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